

SCENES AT "BLACK AMERICA."

A FEW PICTURES OF NEGRO CHARACTER.

HOW SOUTHERN LIFE IS REPRESENTED AT AMBROSE PARK—ITS SUCCESS AND ITS LIMITATIONS.

Nothing is harder than to do deliberately what one is always doing naturally. Ask an inexperienced breather to breathe naturally for a moment, and see what the result will be. It is this principle that makes a public exhibition of national or race characteristics so difficult. There is a brilliant example in "Black America" at Ambrose Park. Some degree of success has been attained and more will be attained as the summer goes on, but there will always be a rigid limit. It is inevitable.

Suppose, for illustration, that people in Labrador wanted to study, in a light and joyous manner, the customs of the Nineteenth Police Precinct of the city of New-York—only suppose. Suppose that a showman should stretch a net across Broadway, go off to Labrador with the first hundred persons who get into it, put them in an enclosure one-fourth of a mile square, with a board fence around

it, and the ground covered with tar-barck, and then say to them: "Now act just as if you were in the Tenderloin." What could they do?

Suppose that he should go so far as to build and paint a scenery representing Broadway. Then imagine him making a speech somewhat like this: "The performance will begin, ladies and gentlemen, with a correct representation of the methods of drinking in New-York on Sunday. Notice the strip of cloth hanging across the mirror. This is the legal method of closing the bar. You will observe that the four gentlemen who are about to drink sit at a table, and that they have a plate of crackers and cheese among them. This shows that they are travellers, to whose wants the hotel is bound to minister, and that the drinks are merely the necessary accompaniment of what they are eating.

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THE BARBER SHOP.

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sang out: "We are now about to press and bind up this bale of cotton." Somewhat slapped the mule, and it walked around and around the press, while the big wooden weights came down and down till the mass of cotton was of only half its first size. Then the old men laboriously passed the iron straps around the bale and hooked them, and the job was done. Anybody who expects new bales of cotton to be made every time is most unreasonable. The show would have to get several cargoes of cotton as the summer went on. There are two bales on hand, and each of them is repeatedly pulled and pressed and baled over again. The cotton ought to be well squashed together by the end of the summer.

What the spectators want, after all, is a show,

and the most of the show of "Black America" is in the inclosure where the men and various colored framing down things naturally and doing them on purpose is natural at present here. Nobody who feels himself to be on exhibition can afford showing the feeling a little, till he gets a real taste of it.

The people who have come from the plantations have not had great experience, and they feel all the time that people are looking at them. It is natural for them to try to keep them even painfully to the front and count their steps. But in general, there is a leap about in the darkly nature that cannot be avoided, and it might not be suppressed, but the self-consciousness will find its way.

There is one spicet who is a born actor. His work has been appreciated, and he has been given a good name.

Anybody can see that leading a grand march is the joy of his life. If he were ever let loose in a cakewalk he would have to be marched along, and he would do his best to make the march look like a race.

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